AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) A method for manufacturing a spark plug comprising a ~~columnar~~ center electrode insulated and held inside a housing and a ground electrode having one end being bonded to said housing, wherein said ground electrode is bent at its intermediate portion so that ~~the other end~~ an axial line of said ground electrode at the other end thereof is substantially perpendicular to an axial line of said center electrode, and said other end of said ground electrode is opposed to a distal end surface of said center electrode via a predetermined spark gap, said manufacturing method comprising:

a bonding step of bonding one end of said ground electrode to said housing;

a provisional bending step, performed after said bonding step, of bending an intermediate portion of said ground electrode with a pressing die so that the other end of said ground electrode is opposed to ~~a~~ the distal end surface of said center electrode; and

a regular bending step, performed after said provisional bending step, of adjusting a position of the other end of said ground electrode so as to adjust the dimension of said spark gap, wherein ~~receiving dies are prepared for regulating a shift range of~~

a protruding amount of a distal end surface of said other end of said ground electrode in a direction perpendicular to said axial line of said center electrode is regulated by a receiving die in the process of bending the intermediate portion of said ground electrode in said provisional bending step, ~~and~~ wherein the protruding amount is defined as a distance between said distal end surface of said ground electrode and an imaginary axial extension of said center electrode, measured in said direction perpendicular to said axial line of said center electrode, in said provisional bending step, said intermediate portion of said ground electrode is bent until said distal end surface of said other end of said ground electrode is brought into contact with said receiving ~~dies~~ die, and

said distal end surface of said ground electrode, in contact with the receiving die, is protruded from said center electrode by said protruding amount.

2. (Original) The manufacturing method for a spark plug in accordance with claim 1, wherein the position of said pressing die in said axial line in said provisional bending step is determined with reference to the position of said distal end surface of said center electrode.

3. (Original) The manufacturing method for a spark plug in accordance with claim 1, wherein said provisional bending step is performed in a condition that both sides of said ground electrode are clamped by said receiving dies when said ground electrode is seen from said axial line.

4. (Original) The manufacturing method for a spark plug in accordance with claim 2, wherein the position of said distal end surface of said center electrode is measured by image processing.